

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, UN
SUBJECT: ISSUES AT THIRD PREPCOM

REF: A) USUN 2691; B) USUN 2708;
C) USUN 1069 D) USUN 2711

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS US DEL'S VIEWS ON ISSUES
LIKELY TO EMERGE FOR DECISION AT THIRD PREPCOM OF THE SPECIAL
SESSION OF DISARMAMENT (AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 9). OUT VIEWS
ARE BASED ON INFORMAL, PLENARY SESSIONS OF THE PREPCOM, BI-
LATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH NON-ALIGNED AND OTHER DELS, AND
MEETINGS OF THE WESTERN GROUP. ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS WILL
LIKELY BE THE MAJOR TOPICS ON WHICH DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN
DURING THIRD PREPCOM. WE DO NOT EXPECT EITHER FORMAL NEGO-
TIATIONS ON LANGUAGE OF SSOD DOCUMENTS OR A DRAFTING EXERCISE
AT THIS SESSION. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCATION: BECAUSE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL IS SCHEDULED TO
BE RENOVATED DURING 1978, THE QUESTION HAS ARISEN AS TO WHETHER
THE HALL WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SSOD. AT AUGUST 23 INFORMAL
PLENARY, A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS (INCLUDING US) EXPRESSED
SERIOUS CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS FOR SSOD. REPRESENTA-
TIVES OF THE SECRETARIAT, IN PRELIMINARY REMARKS AUGUST 24,
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STATED PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE GA
HALL (AND SEVERAL OTHER SMALLER CONFERENCE ROOMS) BETWEEN
JANUARY AND AUGUST OF 1978. IF THESE PLANS ARE CARRIED
OUT, THE GA HALL WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR MAY/JUNE, BUT
COULD CONCEIVABLE BE READY BY AUGUST (THOUGH SECRETARUAT
NOT IN A POSITION TO "GUARANTEE" AUGUST AVAILABILITY).
THUS, UNLESS A DECISION WERE MADE TO POSTPONE THE RENO-

VATION OF THE GA HALL UNTIL 1979, A SPRING SPECIAL SESSION IN NEW YORK WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD IN THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL ROOM (CONSIDERABLY SMALLER THAN THE GA HALL). MOVING THE SESSION TO GENEVA IS NOT A POSSIBILITY INASMUCH AS MEETINGS OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, WHO, ILO AND ECOSOC PRECLUDE USE OF THE GENEVA FACILITIES BEFORE AUGUST 7, 1978. SECRETARIAT WILL PRESENT A FULLER REPORT ON THE OPTIONS INCLUDING FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS, DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29. US DEL PLANS TO EXPLORE VARIOUS OPTIONS PRIVATELY WITH SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS AND OTHER DELS WITH A VIEW TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT GA HALL CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE.

3. DURATION AND DATES: EASTERN AND WESTERN GROUPS AND SRI LANKANS (SPEAKING FOR NON-ALIGNED) HAVE FAVORED A FOUR (OR AT MOST FIVE) WEEK SPECIAL SESSION. THE MEXICANS HAVE INDICATED A PREFERENCE FOR SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC DATES FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION PENDING DETERMINATION OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE GA HALL. US DEL TENDS TO FAVOR SHORT SESSION IN ORDER TO CONCENTRATE ACTIVITY ON SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS AND AVOID PROLONGED NEGOTIATIONS ON LANGUAGE OF DOCUMENTS.

4. OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES: OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS LIKELY TO BE TAKEN UP AT THIRD PREPCOM INCLUDED PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND THE NUMBER AND CON-

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STITUTION OF COMMITTEES (SEE REFTEL A., PARA 2). PREVALENT VIEW SEEMS TO BE THAT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE 32ND GA AND NORMAL GA RULES (WHICH PROVIDE FOR VOTING OPTION) SHOULD BE FOLLOWED TO EXTEND FEASIBLE. MOST DELS HAVE STATED THAT THEY HOPE CONSENSUS DECISION-MAKING CAN BE CONTINUED DURING REMAINING PREPCOMS AND SPECIAL SESSION. SEVERAL DELS HAVE ALSO INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR HAVING A SINGLE MAIN COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE), WITH AD HOC WORKING GROUP BEING ESTABLISHED AS NECESSARY, TO DO SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF DRAFTING SSOD DOCUMENTS. US DEL ALSO SUPPORTS THIS IDEA IN ORDER TO CENTRALIZE AUTHORITY OVER AD HOC WORKING GROUPS AND FOR PURPOSES OF INCREASING EFFICIENCY IN OPERATION AND COORDINATION OF DRAFTING OF FINAL DOCUMENTS.

5. PUBLIC INFORMATION: A NUMBER OF DELS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT UN OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (OPI) MAY NEED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPORT OF THE SPECIAL SESSION. US DEL BELIEVES ACTIVE PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY OPI, BUT WE SHOULD TAKE CAREFUL LOOK AT FINANCIAL IMPLICATION.

6. PREPCOM COMPOSITION: POLISH DEL HAS AGAIN RAISED EE GROUP DEMAND FOR ENLARGING ITS REPRESENTATION IN PREPCOM. GIVEN NON-ALIGNED AND WESTERN OPPOSITION, DEL BELIEVES WE SHOULD GIVE FIRM SUPPORT TO WESTERN CONSENSUS ON THIS ISSUE WHICH ORIGINALLY PREFERRED AN OPEN-ENDED PREPCOM MEMBERSHIP BUT WHICH WOULD INSIST UPON TWO ADDITIONAL WESTERN SEATS FOR EACH ADDITIONAL EE SEAT TO PRESERVE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION. THIS ISSUE IS LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED ONLY BRIEFLY AT PRESENT SESSION AND WILL BE LEFT FOR 32ND UNGA TO DECIDE, POSSIBLY LEADING TO TIME-CONSUMING WRANGLE THIS FALL.

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7. SUBSTANTIVE WORK: AUSTRALIANS HAVE PROPOSED THAT PREPCOM ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT FRAMEWORK AND MAIN HEADINGS OF DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM OF ACTION, AND POSSIBLY SOME OF THE ELEMENTS UNDER EACH HEADING. WESTERN DELS HAVE REACTED POSITIVELY TO THIS SUGGESTION AND BARTON GROUP HAS DECIDED TO ENGAGE IN A HEADINGS EXERCISE (REF. B). SOME MEMBERS OF NON-ALIGNED HAVE TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT THEY ARE NOT INCLINED "TO NEGOTIATE" HEADINGS OR ENTER INTO DETAILED DISCUSSION ABOUT THIS. MEXICANS, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE INTERESTED IN US IDEAS ON BASIC "THRUST" OR POSSIBLE DOCUMENTS, OTHERS (E.G., SRI LANKA) WOULD PREFER TO HAVE WESTERN AND EASTERN REACTIONS TO NON-ALIGNED PAPER TABLED AT SECOND PREPCOM (REF. C)

8. NON-ALIGNED HAVE ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY MAY BE ABLE TO TABLE, ON AN AD REFERENDUM BASIS, A SECOND PAPER WITH MORE DETAILED LANGUAGE ON THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM OF ACTION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LITTLE WORK WAS DONE BY NON-ALIGNED DURING SUMMER, AND THERE IS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HOW FAST THEY CAN PROCEED IN DEVELOPING

THEIR PAPER DURING CURRENT SESSION. IF IN PLENARY THE NON-ALIGNED PRESS THEIR DESIRE TO HAVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON WORKING PAPERS, WESTERN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE PREPARED INFORMAL PAPERS HERE OR IN GENEVA (TO DATE, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NORWAY AND JAPAN) AND POSSIBLY SOVIETS (REF D) MAY TABLE PAPERS HERE. EVEN IF PREPCOM UNDERTAKES DISCUSSION ON THESE VARIOUS PAPERS, THOUGH, WE BELIEVE UNLIKELY THAT ANY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ENGAGE IN A FORMAL DRAFT EXERCISE.

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TRALIA, NORWAY AND JAPAN) AND POSSIBLY SOVIETS (REF D) MAY TABLE PAPERS HERE. EVEN IF PREPCOM UNDERTAKES DISCUSSION ON THESE VARIOUS PAPERS, THOUGH, WE BELIEVE UNLIKELY THAT ANY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ENGAGE IN A FORMAL DRAFT EXERCISE.

9. FUTURE PREPCOMS: SRI LANKA, SPEAKING FOR NON-ALIGNED, HAS PROPOSED A SEVEN WEEK FOURTH PREPCOM JANUARY 24-MARCH 15, AND A FINAL FIFTH PREPCOM TO BE HELD THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL SESSION. US AND WESTERN DELS ARE NOTABLY UN-ENTHUSIASTIC OVER PROSPECT FOR A LONG WINTER SESSION IN PART BECAUSE IT WOULD CONFLICT WITH IMPORTANT WORK OF CCD, AND GENERALLY PREFER NOTION OF TWO SHORTER PREPCOMS, (E.G., THREE WEEKS EACH IN JANUARY AND APRIL) PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL SESSION -- A PREFERENCE SHARED, WE UNDERSTAND, BY A MINORITY WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED AS WELL. ALSO WORKING AGAINST NON-ALIGNED PROPOSAL IS FACT THAT, ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT, CONFERENCE FACILITIES AT THE UN FOR THE PREPCOM WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS WINTER ONLY FOR TWO INTERVALS OF THREE WEEKS EACH (16 JAN - 3 FEB AND 21 FEB - 10 MARCH).

10. NON-ALIGNED GROUP IS SEEKING OUR PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO ITS WORKING PAPER. SOVIETS HAVE REQUESTED BILATERAL ON PAPERS WHICH THEY HAVE GIVEN US THIS WEEK. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD RESPOND IN PRELIMINARY, INFORMAL TERMS TO THESE REQUESTS. DEL ALSO BELIEVES THIS PREPCOM WOULD BE USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO OUTLINE OUR GENERAL APPROACH TO SSOD TO NUMBER OF OTHER DELS.

11. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO): SEVERAL DELEGATIONS HAVE ASKED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE PREPCOM OF EARLIER DECISIONS ON THE APPROACH IT HAS TAKEN RE-

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NGO ROLE AT SSOD. NGOS THEMSELVES ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR RESTRICTED INVOLVEMENT IN SSOD PREPARATIONS. (LIMITED TO SUBMISSION OF PAPERS TO SECRETARIAT). JAPAN AND OTHER DELS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE CONCERNED THAT NGO'S WOULD POLITICIZE SSOD IN DETRIMENTAL WAYS. DELEGATION IS WAITING FOR SECRE-

TARIAT STUDY ON PRECEDANTS RE NEG PARTICIPATION AT OTHER
SPECIAL SESSIONS.

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